

77-8997/1

C-37.1
10 Sept 77

19 October 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM :
Assistant for Public Affairs

SUBJECT : Status of Colby Manuscript

1. Mr. Colby has written a lively and most comprehensive account of his career in intelligence. Entitled "Colby of CIA," it begins with his heroic exploits in OSS and ends when President Ford relieves him as Director in November 1975.

2. Colby's career spans most of the urgent issues of the Agency's past, and he was intimately involved in most of them from positions of high authority. His descriptions of these events and issues are candid indeed and, once published, the book undoubtedly will generate considerable press comment by the intelligence watchers, if only because a former Director is the author.

3. Colby's account of the considerable covert political activity during the 50's may raise questions about the extent of present covert activity. His defense of covert action on moral ground, will also not go unnoticed. The Vietnam years span the 60's, and Colby for most of that time was in the Far East or Chief of the Far East Division at Headquarters. His account of the assassination of Diem, and his close connections with the Diem family, will raise eyebrows because Colby boldly points the finger at the Kennedy/Johnson Administrations. His explanation of the Phoenix program, which was initiated during his second tour in Vietnam, at last puts this controversial issue into the perspective of the broad program it really was. Colby's comments on the Bay of Pigs and subsequent actions against Castro also do not flatter the Kennedy administration.

4. Colby describes his years as DCI in the aftermath of the Watergate affair and the subsequent investigation with aplomb, and with as much objectivity as one who served as DCI probably could muster. In the end Colby traces his realization of the need to bring into the open the full scope of Agency activities during those years. He ascribes his firing to having followed this course too diligently.

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE C-37.1

5. It would be extremely difficult for anyone to write of these events and not include more detail than is desired from the point of view of good security. In reviewing the manuscript, the Publications Review Board did indeed find numerous disclosures of cover arrangements, of still classified information, and of improprieties which would have adversely affected our relationship with a foreign country. Mr. Colby has graciously worked with [redacted] of the General Counsel's office to eliminate most such problem areas.

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6. Only one major problem remains unresolved -- Mr. Colby's account of the [redacted] Negotiations on this issue are continuing in good faith. Mr. Colby has offered a redraft of the section on [redacted] which is now being coordinated with the DDS&T. [redacted] who is handling the negotiations with Mr. Colby, is hopeful the new draft will satisfy the DDS&T and Security.

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7. Mr. Colby has taken a cooperative and accommodating position throughout the negotiations. In order to ensure Agency satisfaction on the final document, he has indicated he will provide galley proofs of the manuscript for a final review.

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77-8997/A

10 September 1977

Dear Bill,

I enjoyed your letter of the 29th, and I am delighted to know that your book is getting close to publication. I cannot imagine that we will have any problems with it, but of course it must go through standard review procedures.

STAT I have asked to be kept advised of that process, and have set a target date of 1 October for return of staff comments to you. In the meantime, I have asked [redacted] to be in touch with you as necessary to keep the review moving promptly.

Pat sends her best to Barbara. Hope we can see you both again soon. All the best.

Y

STANSFIELD TURNER

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STAT The Honorable W. E. Colby

[redacted]

STAT O/ES/[redacted]sk

Distribution:

0 - Addressee

1 - DCI

1 - Acting DDCI

1 - Asst/DCI/PA

1 - [redacted] (coordinated by phone)

1 - DDA

1 - ER

(CLASSIFIED BY THE C-37.1)

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill,

This will acknowledge receipt of your manuscript as conveyed with your letter of 29 August. It has been passed to our Review Board, and I hope to have their recommendations as promptly as possible. I am sure you understand that this will take some time, but I hope to have their comments and begin my review by 1 October. In the meantime, I have asked [redacted] to consult with you as appropriate.

Yours,

STANSFIELD TURNER

Mr. W. E. Colby

[redacted]

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29 August 1977

Admiral Stansfield Turner, USN
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Stan:

Pursuant to my secrecy agreement with the Agency, I tender herewith the text of a book I intend to publish. I have endeavored to write the book in a fashion which does not reveal classified information or otherwise transgress my agreement.

I would appreciate your reviewing the material and advising me whether you agree with this belief or not. If you do not with respect to certain items in the book, I would appreciate your advising me specifically which ones they are, as I would hope that I could rewrite such individual portions as you might find improper so that they could be published without conflict with the agreement.

As you know, I hope that this book may do some good in clarifying some rather large misunderstandings prevalent about intelligence and CIA. Consequently, while in no way asking your approval of the ideas and opinions in the book, I would welcome any comments you may choose to make which might advance that purpose. I also realize that my secrecy agreement does not call upon you to correct any error of fact that I may have made in writing this book, but again I would welcome any corrections you might find it appropriate to suggest. In the foreword of the book I intend to refer to the fact that I submitted the book to you for this review but that in no way do the ideas and opinions reflect any official position by yourself or by CIA.

Naturally, I would hope that this review will not take too long, although I do understand that you will want to consult on it and seek expert opinion from your subordinates. If there is anything I can do to accelerate the process through personal contact, I would be happy to do so.

With all good wishes for continued success in the fine job that I hear you are doing.

Sincerely,

W. F. COLBY

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COPY

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Executive Registry

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Sincerely,

W. E. COLBY

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Enclosed is a letter for your signature acknowledging receipt of Mr. Colby's manuscript. [redacted] is Chairman of the Review Board, but the Regulation [redacted] says the Office of General Counsel will be the point of contact for former employees. Board membership consists of: D/DCI/NI, DDI, Director of Security, Chief/[redacted] DDO; and in this case, [redacted] (OGC) and probably a member of the IG Staff.

[redacted]
B. C. Evans

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Routing Slip

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X (Forwarding letter and		
2	DDCI		x Table of Content only)		
3	D/DCI/IC				
4	DDS&T				
5	DDI				
6	DDA		X "		"
7	DDO				
8	D/DCI/NI				
9	GC	X (Attn: [redacted])			
10	LC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/S				
15	DTR				
16	A/DCI/PA		X "		"
17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPS				
19	DCI/SS				
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SUSPENSE		Date			

Remarks:

For Board review and recommendation to DCI.

Executive Secretary

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